The Death of Right-Wing Populism and Toward a United Europe

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The British political scientist Matthew Goodwin's verdict on Boris Johnson's electoral victory came to be widely cited: "it is much easier for the Right to move Left on economics than it is for the Left to move Right on culture."

Trump was elected in 2016 because he did something that no other candidate had done in recent memory: he moved the Republican to the left on economics and foreign policy, and still kept the culture war conservatism. He ran to the left of Hillary on jobs, trade, war and immigration. Remember that immigration restriction was always something Democrats did, not Republicans. But now, with the betrayal of Trump and the long con that was right-wing populism, many voters have not caught on.

> Much as he did twelve years ago, Joe Biden comes to the White House amid a punishing economic crisis. Yet the opposition he faces is entirely different, for Donald Trump has shattered the Republican Party's old small-government pieties and ushered in a new working-class conservatism eager to use government to serve the common good. Just kidding: things will be almost exactly the same. Expect the GOP to offer up strong doses of deficit hysteria, a fierce push for austerity, and a congressional war of attrition aimed at bogging Biden down in an extended recession. For now, the most striking thing about Trump's takeover will be how little it affects the basic dynamics of the right in opposition. To be sure, we'll continue to hear all the hits from the Trumpian songbook: the migrants swarming across the border, the effrontery of the coastal elites, the Chinese yellow peril, the treason of the intelligentsia, the pedophilic cabals hiding in plain sight. To call these themes "populist" might be misleading because it implies that their sole or main appeal is to the working class. But if we simply take the term to mean this particular strain of reactionary berserk, then right populism isn't going anywhere.

The author of this piece is getting at something real, which is that for the all the talk among people like Josh Hawley, Marco Rubio and Tom Cotton about the wonders of the working and middle class, they never deliver. Now to be fair, the Democrats didn't either, but that isn't the point. You don't get to act shitty because your opponents do to.

> Right populists can tell themselves that these are just short-term compromises, but protracted experience suggests that we should only believe the American right can move left on economics once we've witnessed it happen. And if the Trump years have seen populism make inroads on a rhetorical level, their practical lessons are less promising for the movement: Trump expanded his support while tossing aside the program that populists claimed he had been elected to implement. The most basic obstacle facing right populism has been around for decades: the people who matter on the right would rather get filthy rich with 45 percent support than slightly less filthy rich with 55 percent support, and the configuration of American political institutions makes this a perfectly rational strategy. The way to change this calculus is not to convince them of their errors but to render the strategy unviable. That would require a democratization of American political life so that the pursuit of majority support becomes a necessity rather than a luxury.

Sure, the filthy rich problem is a problem, but is an aspect only. What I mean is that the problem is not the symptom of greed and corporate corruption among $5000 suit-wearing Republican "populists"; the problem is the system they uphold, namely liberal capitalism. No, not neoliberalism or corporatism; those phrases just

mask the problem. The problem is capitalism essentially and liberalism essentially. No need to dress them up in subspecies labels.

> Ultimately, Europe certainly has the potential to become a superpower. With the fostering of a Pan-European identity and sovereignty, along with a solution to its demographic issues and careful management of its lack of natural resources, it will be. Either Europe unites and takes its place in the sun once again, or it perishes.

Why do I bring up Europe here? Because America is a decadent liberal empire that must be challenged. But the challenged cannot come from another mixed-race, globohomo liberal empire from the other side of the Atlantic. The challenge must come from a place that targets liberalism where it hurts, and that is a racial homogenous, anti-capitalist, Pan-european imperial order.

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